

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-15

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 VO-03 NIC-01 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 021331Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 051

INFO :AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 273

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, AU

SUBJECT: GOA REACTION TO CRITICISM ON HANLDING OF TERRORIST
ATTACK

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE WIDESPREAD CRITICISM FROM ABROAD
(PARTICULARLY ISRAELI) AND FROM DOMESTIC OPPOSITION
PARTIES AS WELL AS INDEPENDENT MEDIA, GOA STEADFASTLY
MAINTAINS THAT IT ACTED CORRECTLY IN AGREEING TO ARAB
TERRORISTS DEMANDS TO CLOSE SCHOENAU TRANSIT CENTER IN
RETURN FOR SAVING LIVES OF HOSTAGES. END SUMMARY

2. AUSTRIAN PRESS AND RADIO/TV ARE GIVING EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO NEGATIVE COMMENTARIES AND OFFICIAL STATE-
MENTS EMANATING FROM ABROAD. SIMILAR PUBLICITY GIVEN
TO CRITICISM VOICED BY OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY AND
FREEDOM PARTY (VIENNA 8056). LOCAL INDEPENDENT PRESS
WAS LARGELY CRITICAL OF THE WAY THE ARAB TERRORIST
INCIDENT WAS HANDLED (VIENNA 8090). GOA REACTION HAD
BEEN ON OF SELF-JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION TAKEN, MIXED
WITH DETERMINATION TO RESIST PRESSURE FOR REVERSAL OF
ITS DECISION TO DISCONTINUE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE,
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WHILE AT SAME TIME SEARCHING FOR FACE-SAVING ALTERNATIVE.

3. MININTERIOR ROESCH STATED PUBLICLY OCTOBER 1 THAT FRIDAY NIGHT (SEPTEMBER 28) CABINET DECISION WAS UNANIMOUS, RUMORS TO CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING. AFTER NOTING THAT SCHOENAU FACILITY WILL BE CLOSED, HE, NONETHELESS, LEFT DOOR SLIGHTLY AJAR BY POINTING OUT THAT SCHOENAU IS PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY WHICH MAY STILL BE USED BUT NOT IN PRESENT FORM AND THAT GOA NOW FACES QUESTION IN WHAT FASHION TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE REFUGEES.

4. MINJUSTICE BRODA YESTERDAY REITERATED POINTS HE MADE SHORTLY AFTER DEPARTURE OF TERRORISTS, NAMELY, THAT GOA MET ITS TWO PRIMARY GOALS--BLOODSHED WAS AVOIDED AND HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED. BRODA EMPHASIZED THAT, DESPITE WIDESPREAD CRITICISM, AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT STANDING FIRMLY BY ITS DECISION WHICH IT FEELS WAS CORRECT ONE. HE APPEALED TO POPULATION AND IMPLICITLY TO FOREIGN NATIONS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOA'S HUMANITARIANISM BUT CAUTIONED THAT "TERRORISM CANNOT BE STOPPED BY COUNTER-TERRORISM". SYMPTOMATIC OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CHANCELLOR KREISKY, BRODA WARNED THAT EXERTING PRESSURE ON GOA WILL NOT SOLVE ISSUE AND COMPARISONS TO 1938 MUNICH SURRENDER AS PRIVATELY MADE BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR PATISH (VIENNA 8052) IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND STRONGLY RESENTED BY GOA. NEVERTHELESS, BRODA ALSO ALLUDED TO NEED TO FIND A NEW SOLUTION TO SOVIET REFUGEE PROBLEM BUT INSISTED THAT AUSTRIA WILL NOT BE PUSHED IN THIS MATTER. HUMES

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